

APHIS Workshop September 13 – 15 2004 Abstract

BACKGROUND: RiceTec is a hybrid rice seed company. RiceTec has been conducting experiments, making and testing hybrids since 1987. RiceTec sold the first commercial rice hybrid in USA in 2000. To develop, produce and sell rice hybrids requires an in-depth understanding of pollen movement.

DISCOVERIES: Since 1987, RiceTec has conducted over 300 large scale (20 acres or more) production blocks. These production blocks clearly and repeatedly show that rice pollen in seed production fields can routinely move up to 60 feet with little to no impact on seed yield. Production blocks (like in hybrid corn production) are flown with helicopters to aid pollen movement. Hybrid seed corn production normally requires male pollen to travel 8 to 10 feet.

RiceTec small scale experiments clearly document that wind assisted rice pollen can move over 600 feet. IRRI recommends that hybrid rice maintain a minimum distance of 330 feet from other rice cultivars. RiceTec requires substantially more isolation than recommended by IRRI.

POLLEN MANAGEMENT: RiceTec believes that responsible pollen management requires a proactive process management (QMS) system. RiceTec has such a system embedded into every step of every function of its Research, Development, Production and Commercialization process.